



## The biggest synthetic biology competition comes to Amsterdam

**What do you need to build a futuristic bacteria in a summer holiday? A package of interchangeable DNA parts, the so-called BioBricks, and a portion of perseverance. Each year, more than 1000 students around the world manage to develop a useful bacterium in this way for the international synthetic biology competition, iGEM.**

After the success of last year, the Netherlands will again host the European iGEM Jamboree on 5-7 October at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. Six Dutch Universities are working together to welcome 54 European and African teams which will present and compete for a ticket to the world championships at MIT in Cambridge, USA.

The International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition is an international competition where student teams from around the world are challenged to design and build their own microbiological machine. At the beginning of the summer, the participating student teams are given a kit of biological parts, the so-called "BioBricks" which are developed by previous iGEM teams. With these and with newly designed DNA components, they try to give the micro-organisms a new function. The projects include amongst others bacteria that remove pollutants, detect medical conditions and win precious metals. The sky's the limit.

During the summer the students work in the laboratory to build their own bacteria. In addition, they are responsible for generating their own money to finance their project and they organize activities to increase the public awareness about synthetic biology. That's some else than a holiday on the beach.

The participating students are very motivated and all have a passion for science. This special group of young scientists will be in Amsterdam this year to present their latest work for the regional finals.

All discoveries of the iGEM students is accessible to everyone. This transparency makes it possible for other scientists or industries to build upon the pioneering work of these synthetic biologists of the future. Publicizing open source information of biological systems provides material for discussion. Think of the publication of the research on the avian influenza virus of the Erasmus MC. Therefore, the iGEM Europe organization works with the Rathenau Institute to the keep debate between the future scientists and young politicians on the (possible) social and ethical issues of synthetic biology alive.



The iGEM Jamboree is a special event on synthetic biology. If you are interested in this technology, come to the Jamboree to set your eyes on the latest work in this field and to meet a large number of established and young scientists.

Access for the debate on Friday night is free (register via the Rathenau Institute). For the program on Saturday and Sunday you must register on [2012.igem.org](http://2012.igem.org).

More information

[2012.igem.org/Regions/Europe/Jamboree](http://2012.igem.org/Regions/Europe/Jamboree)

Nadine Bongaerts & Eva Brinkman, PR  
igemeurope@biotecture.nl

TU Delft – Department of Biotechnology  
Julianalaan 67  
2628 BC Delft

### Organizing Universities:



### Sponsors:

